

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 6-14, and 16-20 are pending in the application and stand rejected.

Claims 10-13 and 18 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Nakamura et al. (US 2002/0078296), in view of De Margerie et al. (US 6,859,865), and further in view of Fukuzumi (US 2002/0083263), and further in view of Dickensheets (US 7,133,984).

Claims 1, 6-9, and 19-20 are allowed.

Claims 14, and 16-17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter. While Applicant continues to believe that all claims are patentable over the cited references, the preceding amendments are offered in the interest of advancing prosecution. Specifically, claims 14 and 16 are rewritten in independent form as new claims 24 and 25, respectively. Claims 10, 14, and 16 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Dependent claims 11-13 are amended to depend from claim 24 per the new claim numbering. Similarly, dependent claims 17-18 are amended to depend from claim 25.

Minor grammatical changes have been made in connection with rewriting claims 14 and 16 in independent form. Claim 1 is amended to remove the limitation "wherein the intermediate storage subsystem is not directly coupled to a host unit." No new matter has been added and, based on the reasons for allowance given by the Examiner, it is believed that the amendments do not affect patentability of the claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for immediate allowance and that no further response is required.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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Amdt. dated August 27, 2008
Reply to Office Action of June 11, 2008

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 858-350-6100.

Respectfully submitted,



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